

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A manifold of plastics material for hot-water heating systems and the like, including a sleeve element (10) extending longitudinally about an axis (x), formed in one piece and having a plurality of pairs of apertures (11, 12) distributed along the manifold, in which the apertures of each pair are aligned transversely with each other in order to engage and lock transversely on the manifold respective pairs of metal tubular elements (20, 30) mechanically connectable (16) to each other and to a branch (T) of the heating system.

2. The manifold of Claim 1, wherein an inwardly tapering surface (14, 15) of the manifold is formed at the site of each aperture (11, 12).

3. The manifold of Claim 2, wherein the tapered surface is a conical surface.

4. The manifold of Claim 1, wherein a prismatic seat (13) is formed at the site of one (11) of each pair of apertures (11, 12) for securing a corresponding portion (23) of a tubular metal element (20) against rotation.

5. A manifold assembly for a hot-water heating system including:

- a manifold (10) including a sleeve element (10) extending longitudinally about an axis (x), formed in one piece and having a plurality of pairs of aperture (11, 12) distributed along the manifold, in which the apertures of each pair are aligned transversely with each other;

- pairs of first and second tubular metal elements (20, 30) engaged in the said pairs of apertures (11, 12) in the manifold and mechanically coupled the one to the other (16); and
- an annular seal element (19a, 19b) interposed between each tubular metal element (20, 30) and a respective surface of the manifold to provide a seal in the region of the aperture.

6. The manifold assembly of Claim 5, wherein the seal element (19a, 19b) is resiliently compressed by reason of the said mechanical coupling.

7. The manifold assembly of Claim 5, wherein the first and second tubular metal elements (20, 30) of each pair are coupled together by threaded means (16)..

8. The manifold assembly of Claim 5, wherein the seal element (19a, 19b) engages against a surface (14, 15) of the manifold tapering inwardly thereof.